



THE MINUTES AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5, 1971

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
2201 So. Union Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
Phone: 213 -- 748-0123

Dear Members and Friends:

The Second Annual Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is now history. Contained within the pages of this booklet are the Reports of our many Boards, Commissions and Committees and the By-law changes that were accepted by the General Conference.

It is my wish, speaking for the Board of Elders, to thank the many individuals who worked behind the scenes who helped make this General Conference so outstanding. In years to come, we will look back to this General Conference as one of the most productive that our church has ever had.

We hope that each of our congregations will study the recommendations and reports and By-law changes contained within this booklet, and will strive to see that all of them are placed into practice, so that we may all continue in the Unity of Faith.

The Board of Elders would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to our next conference, which will be held September 1, 2 and 3, 1972 - Labor Day Weekend in Los Angeles.

Until then, for the remaining members of the Board of Elders, Reverend John H. Hose, Reverend Richard Ploen and Reverend Louis Loynes, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Troy D. Perry
Reverend Troy D. Perry, Moderator
Board of Elders

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

TDP/hp

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Los Angeles
hosts
THE 2ND ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1971

GENERAL CONFERENCE SERIES

Friday, September 3, 1971

7:00 - 7:55 PM

REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND VISITORS

8:00 PM

SINGSPIRATION

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Richard Ploen, Los Angeles, Calif.

WELCOME & OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

Rev. John Hose, Los Angeles, Calif.

HYMN

PUBLICATIONS AWARDS

Don Hughes, Board Member, Los Angeles,
Calif.

THE CRESCENDOS

Los Angeles, Calif.

SAMARITAN BIBLE SEMINARY SKIT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Troy D. Perry, Los Angeles, Calif.

OFFERING

BENEDICTION

Rev. Lou Loynes, Los Angeles, Calif.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SERIES

Saturday, September 4, 1971

8:00 AM

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Rev. Joseph Gilbert, Sacramento, Calif.
Rev. Robert Cunningham, Phoenix, Ariz.

9:00 AM

CONFERENCE BREAKFAST --- \$1.00

9:30 AM

REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND VISITORS

10:00 AM

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Richard Vincent, Dallas, Texas

SINGSPIRATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Loynes, Los Angeles, Calif.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rev. Brad Wilson, Miami, Fla.

SERMON

Rev. Ron Hanson, Honolulu, Hawaii

OFFERING

Solo by Craig

REPORT - BOARD OF ELDERS

GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Until 12:Noon

12:00 - 1:30 PM

CONFERENCE LUNCH

1:30 - 5:30 PM

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

7:00 PM

SINGSPIRATION

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Ron Carnes, Denver, Colo.

INTRODUCTION OF CHOIRS & CHOIR
"SING-IN"

Willie Smith, Director of Music
Los Angeles, Calif.

OFFERING

CHOIR AWARDS

Willie Smith, Director of Music
Los Angeles, Calif.

GUEST SPEAKER

Rev. Alice Naumoff, San Francisco, Calif.

CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Robert Cunningham, Phoenix, Ariz.

GENERAL CONFERENCE SERIES

Sunday, September 5, 1971

8:00 - 9:00 AM

COFFEE HOUR / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00 - 9:45 AM

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

Rev. Arthur Green, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Paul Sydman, Milwaukee, Wisc.

11:00 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP

ALL CHOIRS, FULL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

HYMN

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Lee Carlton, Tampa, Fla.

HYMN

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Rev. Paul Breton, Washington, D.C.

GLORIA

PRAYER HYMN

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Jim Sandmire, Oakland, Calif.

TESTIMONIES FROM NORTH, SOUTH,
EAST AND WEST

Rev. Arthur Green, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Brad Wilson, Miami, Fla.

Rev. Richard Vincent, Dallas, Texas

Rev. Howard Wells, San Francisco, Calif.

MASS CHOIRS

SERMON

Rev. Rodger Harrison, Costa Mesa, Calif.

OFFERING

"Impossible Dream"

Willie Smith, Los Angeles, Calif.

DOXOLOGY

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS

GENERAL CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Board of Elders

CHOIR BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION PRAYER
Rev. David Solomon, New Orleans, La.

1:00 PM

CONFERENCE LUNCH

7:30 PM

SINGSPARATION

WELCOME
Rev. John Hose, Los Angeles, Calif.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION
Wings Over Jordan Choir

OFFERING

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
Dr. Evelyn Hooker
Institute of Mental Health

SPECIAL MUSIC
"Lord's Prayer"
The Crescendos, Los Angeles, Calif.

CLOSING REMARKS
Rev. Troy D. Perry, Los Angeles, Calif.

Committees and Workers - General Conference 1971

Secretary to the Conference - Herb Pomeroy

Parliamentarian to the Conference - Richard Sommers

Registration:

Herb Pomeroy - Chairman
Shawn Farrell
Kathy Laine
Larry Wrona

Music Committee:

Willie Smith - Chairman
Edgar Carswell
Phil De Grado
John Gooch
Herm Mank
Allen Perrine
Ronald Price
Russell Quest
David Rodell
John Wesley

Communications Committee:

Willie Smith - Chairman
George Duncan
Joseph Hull
Woody Martin
Other members of Communications
Dept., Los Angeles, Calif.

Food Service Committee:

Bill Bennett - Chairman
Char-lou Castle
John Epley
Al Hedman
Jay Heckman
Judy Heckman
Janice Pratt

Housing Committee:

Kevin McCain - Chairman
Howard Coburn
Herb Pomeroy
Russell Quest

Sanitation and Construction Committee:

Terry Luton - Chairman
Skip Beech
Fred Conwell
Herbert Franklin
Orlo Sommers
Bill White

Transportation Committee:

Russell Quest - Chairman
Howard Coburn
Kenneth Jones
Larry Wrona

Publications Committee:

Connie Vaughn - Chairman
Marty Seneca
Pat Rarden

Usher Committee:

Lee Sharp - Chairman
Howard Barr
Ron Bessler
Richard Pentico and the rest of the Los Angeles Ushers

CHURCHES AND MISSIONS AS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCHES:

Good Shepherd Parish, Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 285, Chicago, Illinois 60690
Phone: (312) 248-1525
Meet at: 3342 North Broadway, Chicago, Illinois

Christ Chapel, Metropolitan Community Church
2232-A Pacific Avenue, Costa Mesa, California
Phone: (714) 548-6868
Meet at: 1259 Victoria Street, Costa Mesa, California

Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas
P. O. Box 1344, Dallas, Texas 75221
Phone: (214) 946-4354
Meet at: 4015 Normandy, Dallas, Texas

Denver Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 11303, Denver, Colorado
Phone: (303) 355-7079
Meet at: 1400 La Fayette, Denver, Colorado

Metropolitan Community Church of Honolulu
P. O. Box 1116, Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
Phone: (808) 247-2738
Meet at: 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii

Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles
2201 South Union Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90007
Phone: (213) 748-0123
Meet at: 2201 South Union Avenue, Los Angeles, California

Metropolitan Community Church of Miami
P. O. Box 5077, Miami, Florida 33131
Phone: (305) 374-4773
Meet at: 920 Alton Road, Miami, Florida

East Bay Metropolitan Community Church
440 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland, California 94610
Phone: (415) 832-2581
Meet at: 440 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland, California

Metropolitan Community Church of Phoenix
1426 East Maricopa Freeway, Phoenix, Arizona 85002
Phone: (602) 274-9567
Meet at: 1426 East Maricopa Freeway, Phoenix, Arizona

Harmony Metropolitan Community Church
902 "J" Street, Sacramento, California 95819
Phone: (916) 451-2507
Meet at: 902 "J" Street, Sacramento, California

CHURCHES - continued

Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego
P. O. Box 8205, San Diego, California 91202
Phone: (714) 264-7351
Meet at: 906 North 47th Street, San Diego, California

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco
P. O. Box 99369, Station "D", San Francisco, California 94109
Phone: (415) 864-3576
Meet at: 625 Polk Street, San Francisco, California

First Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 1063, Tampa, Florida 33602
Phone: (813) 839-0150
Meet at: 2904 Concordia Street, Tampa, Florida

Metropolitan Community Church of Washington, D. C.
705 - 7th Street S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003
Phone: (202) 547-6095
Meet at: 705 - 7th Street S.E., Washington, D. C.

MISSIONS:

Fresno Mission, Metropolitan Community Church
1362 "N" Street, Fresno, California

Prince of Peace Parish, Metropolitan Community Church
2024 West Highland Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233

Elysian Fields Parish, Metropolitan Community Church
P. O. Box 50081, New Orleans, Louisiana 70150
Meet at: 604 Iberville Street, New Orleans, Louisiana

Tucson Mission, Metropolitan Community Church
Contact: Metropolitan Community Church, Phoenix, Arizona

San Jose Mission, Metropolitan Community Church
Contact: Metropolitan Community Church, San Francisco, California

ORDAINED MINISTERS AS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE - 1971

Jon Bullock	-----	Los Angeles, California
Ted Callaway	-----	Los Angeles, California
Lee J. Carlton	-----	Tampa, Florida
Ronald Carnes	-----	Denver, Colorado
Arthur Green	-----	Chicago, Illinois
Rodger Harrison	-----	Costa Mesa, California
Donald Hoffman	-----	Miami, Florida
John H. Hose	-----	Los Angeles, California
Louis Loynes	-----	Los Angeles, California
Troy D. Perry	-----	Los Angeles, California
Richard Ploen	-----	Los Angeles, California
Paul Van Hecke	-----	Los Angeles, California
Howard Wells,	-----	San Francisco, California
P. Bradley Wilson	-----	Miami, Florida

LICENSED MINISTERS AS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE - 1971

Paul Breton	-----	Washington, D.C.
Robert Cunningham	-----	Phoenix, Arizona
Joseph Gilbert	-----	Sacramento, California
John Gill	-----	Atlanta, Georgia
Ronald Hanson	-----	Honolulu, Hawaii
Kenneth Jones	-----	Los Angeles, California
Alice Naumoff	-----	San Francisco, California
James Sandmire	-----	Oakland, California
Ruth Shivers	-----	Dallas, Texas
David E. Solomon	-----	New Orleans, Louisiana
R. Charles Spangenberg	-----	Los Angeles, California
Paul Sydman	-----	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Richard Vincent	-----	Dallas, Texas
Howard Williams	-----	San Diego, California

ELECTED DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE - 1971

Atlanta, Georgia:

Pastor - John Gill

No elected delegate represented

Chicago, Illinois:

Pastor - Arthur Green

Elected Delegate - Carl Robbins

Costa Mesa, California:

Pastor - Rodger Harrison

Elected Delegate - Martin McCabe

Dallas, Texas:

Pastor - Richard Vincent

Elected Delegate - Gary Kappes

Denver, Colorado:

Pastor - Ronald Carnes

Elected Delegate - Jim Cowgill

Fresno, California:

Pastor - Deacon Ray Cook

No elected delegate represented

Honolulu, Hawaii:

Pastor - Ronald Hanson

Elected Delegate - Alenan Chapman

Los Angeles, California:

Pastors - Troy D. Perry

John H. Hose

Richard Ploen

Lou Loynes

Elected Delegates - Don Hughes

Terry Luton

Tom Purcell

Bill Thorne

Connie Vaughn

Pat Vestal

Miami, Florida:

Pastors - P. Bradley Wilson

Don Hoffman

Elected Delegates - Anthony Canta

Robert Longstrath

Milwaukee, Wisconsin:

Pastor - Paul Sydman

No elected delegate represented

New Orleans, Louisiana:

Pastor - David Solomon

No elected delegate represented

Oakland, California:

Pastor - James Sandmire

Elected Delegate - Audrey Christopher

Phoenix, Arizona:

Pastor - Robert Cunningham

Elected Delegate - Jean Cook

San Diego, California:

Pastors - John H. Hose

Howard Williams

Tom Markham

Elected Delegates -

Mark Drew

Dale Wigginton

San Francisco, California:

Pastors - Howard Wells

Alice Naumoff

Elected Delegates -

Ray Caley

Paul Peachy

San Jose, California:

Pastor - Bill Chapman

No elected delegate represented

Tucson, Arizona:

Pastor - Alan Mros

No elected delegate represented

Tampa, Florida:

Pastor - Lee J. Carlton

Elected Delegate - Mike Burton

Sacramento, California:

Pastor - Joseph Gilber

Elected Delegate - Freda Smith

Washington, D. C.

Pastor - Paul Breton

No elected delegate represented

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

I, EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Secretary of State of the State of California, hereby do certify:

The annexed transcript has been compared with the RECORDS on file in this office of which it purports to be a copy, and that same is full, true and correct.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I execute
This certificate and affix the
Great Seal of the State of
California this

Signature of Edmund G. Brown, Jr.

Secretary of State

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

We, the undersigned, are citizens and residents of the State of California, and have this day voluntarily associated ourselves together for the purpose of forming a Religious Corporation under the General Nonprofit Corporation Law as embodied in Title 1, Division 2, Para. 1 of the California Corporation Code, and we do hereby certify:

I

The name of the corporation shall be: UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.

II

The primary purpose for which this corporation is formed is to bind together Churches for the purpose of sharing in the Worship of God in the Congregations Christian Tradition, and to make His will dominant in the lives of men, individually and collectively, as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

III

The general purposes for which this corporation is formed are as follows:

- A. To set up bodies for instruction in the science and philosophy of Theology and kindred subjects for the propagation of the teachings and philosophy of the Christian Faith, as accepted by the General Conference of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.
- B. To instruct and indoctrinate those who offer themselves into the teachings and philosophy as received by this body.
- C. To do all things that are compatible with the work and labor of a religious body.
- D. To acquire by purchase or otherwise, hold, improve, sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise encumbered and convey any real and personal property held by it for such purposes as may seem advisable to carry on the work of this corporation, and to do all things necessary on any property acquired by this corporation for this purpose of carrying on the religious and social work of this corporation.

- E. To receive donations of money and other property and to take and own personal and real property by gift, devise and bequest.
- F. To do and perform every act or thing which may be necessary, expedient, incidental to, or proper to the carrying out of the work of this corporation, and finally,
- G. To have, exercise and possess all the rights, powers and privileges now vested in corporations or like or similar character by virtue of all laws hereafter enacted. Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the primary purpose of this corporation.

IV

This is a corporation which does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof. The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to religious purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof, or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation its assets remaining after payments of, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation, shall be distributed to the local church bodies affiliated with this corporation which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which have established their tax exempt status under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and if there be none, then to such other nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

V

The authorized number and qualifications of members of the corporation, the different classes of membership, if any, the property, voting and other rights and privileges of members, and their liability to dues and assessments and the method of collection thereof, shall be as set forth in the By-Laws.

VI

The principal office for the transaction of the business of the corporation shall be located in the County of Los Angeles, State of California.

VII

The corporation shall have a Board of Directors, comprised of four persons who shall be given the title of Elders, and the number of Elders comprising the Board of Directors may be changed by By-Laws for that purpose. The names of the persons who are to act in the capacity of the Board of Directors until the election and qualification of their successors are as follows:

Reverend Troy D. Perry
Los Angeles, California

Reverend John H. Hose
Los Angeles, California

Reverend Richard Ploen
Los Angeles, California

L. A. Loynes
South Gate, California

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands this 17th day of December 1970.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) SS.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

On this 17th day of December, 1970, before me, Wilma E. Siewert, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, personally appeared Rev. Troy D. Perry, Rev. John H. Hose, Rev. Richard Ploen and L. A. Loynes, known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the within statement, and acknowledged that they executed the same.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and affixed my official seal the day and year first written above.

(Signed by Notary)

The afore printed pages are an exact copy of the endorsed file filed with the Secretary of State, State of California on January 8, 1971 under File No. 614819 and accepted in Edmund G. Brown Jr's. office by Bill Holden, Deputy.

BY-LAWS OF THE UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP
OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

ARTICLE I

NAME:

The name of this Fellowship shall be the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.

A. All affiliated local church groups will use the name "METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH" in its official title. The group may add either a prefix or a suffix to distinguish it from other affiliated local churches, such as: "Grace Metropolitan Community Church," "Trinity Metropolitan Community Church," "Metropolitan Community Church of Long Beach," or "Metropolitan Community Church of Tallahassee."

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS:

The objectives of this Fellowship shall be:

- God's*
- A. To bind together Churches for the purpose of sharing in the Worship of God in the Congregational Christian tradition, and to make ~~His~~ *God's* will dominant in the lives of ~~man~~ *all persons*, individually and collectively, as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.
- B. To set up bodies for instruction in the science and philosophy of theology and kindred subjects for the propagation of the teachings and philosophy of the Christian Faith, as accepted by the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.
- C. To instruct and indoctrinate those who offer themselves into the teachings and philosophy as received by this body.
- D. To do all things that are compatible with the work and labor of a religious body.

This Fellowship has acknowledged the Holy Scripture interpreted by the Divine Spirit through reason, faith and conscience, as it guides in faith and discipline. The government of this Fellowship is vested in its Ministers and Church Delegates, who exert the right of control in all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of its articles of incorporation and By-laws. The Fellowship is amendable to no outside ecclesiastical jurisdiction, but accepts the obligation

of mutual consent, comity and co-operation involved in the free Fellowship of other Christian Churches, and does pledge itself to share in their common aims and endeavors, subject to the expressed approval of its membership.

A local church body on the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, is that body which subscribes to the government and doctrine of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, and has been chartered by the same, and is listed in the minutes of the General Conference.

The government of the local church bodies that make up the Fellowship is vested in its members who exert the right to control in all of its affairs, subject to the provisions of its articles of incorporation and By-laws, and those of the General Conference of the Fellowship. The local church body is amendable only to its membership and the General Conference of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.

ARTICLE III

CHARTERING AND DISCIPLINE OF LOCAL CHURCH BODIES:

To become affiliated with the Fellowship as a local church body, a mission group or other groups or interested persons shall apply to the District Co-ordinator of their particular district or to the Board of Home Missions if the group is in a Mission State, for chartering. The application shall indicate that the Mission body or other group of persons agrees to abide by the Articles of Incorporation and the By-laws of the Fellowship if a charter is granted. The application shall also set forth the names of at least twelve prospective members who express their desire to become members of the local church body when chartered by the Fellowship and additional information which should be considered by the District Co-ordinator and Board of Elders in determining whether to issue a charter.

The Board of Elders and District Co-ordinator, or Board of Home Missions and Board of Elders in the case of Mission States, shall determine whether there is a need for a local church body in the area to be served by the applicant group, the availability of a pastor for the church, the preparation that has been made to carry on the work of the church, and the ability of the applicant to sustain sufficient interest and support to become a self sufficient local church body.

If the Board of Elders, the District Co-ordinator, or in the case of Mission State, the Board of Home Missions and the Board of Elders is satisfied that there is a need for a local church body and that the applicants can successfully fill the need they shall issue a Charter to the Applicant.

If a chartered local church body shall fail to abide by the Articles of Incorporation of the By-laws of the Fellowship, or fails to participate in the General Conference of the Fellowship, the Board of Elders shall take appropriate action to require compliance and participation. The Board of Elders shall report any such action to the next meeting of the General Conference which shall have the power to revoke or suspend the charter of the local group or to take such other action as it may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE IV

DOCTRINE:

Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, and is the religion set forth in the Scriptures. The Old Testament foretells Him, the New Testament presents Him and the Christian Church proclaims Him in every age and in every land.

The UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, founded in the interest of offering a church home to all who confess and believe, moves in the mainstream of Christianity.

Our Faith is based upon the principles outlined in the Apostolic Creed

A. We believe:

1. In one God, omnipotent, omnipresent, He being the Creator of all life which has spirituality, the prime mover and Spirit on the Universe.
2. That the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, containing God's revelation of Himself to mankind through the law and the prophets, and finally completely, and ultimately through His presence on earth in the being of His Son, Jesus Christ. *personhood*
3. That Jesus...The Christ...historically recorded as dwelling in Asia Minor some 2,000 years before this writing, is God's most Divine Son, as well as being the Son of Man, born of Woman. And that by total subservience to God, the Father, has demonstrated once and forever that all men are likewise children of God, being spiritually made of His image. *God's*
4. That the Holy Spirit is the working arm of God, available to, and working through all who are willing to place their welfare in His keeping. That the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God's love and interest in all men, and given the opportunity, making *God's person*

^{its}
His presence felt in their lives.

B. We further believe that:

1. All ^{persons} men are justified to God through faith.
2. Further, we are saved from loneliness, despair, degradation through God's gift of grace, as witnessed by our Master's words when He said, "To-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Such grace is not earned but is a pure gift from a God of pure love. We further commend the Fellowship of the Faithful to a life of prayer, seeking genuine forgiveness for unkind, thoughtless and unloving acts and deeds.

To this end, we enjoin the brethren assembled together to express through Christian witness, a personal commitment to lead Godly and Christ-like lives, approaching His throne in an attitude of prayer, seeking regeneration and rebirth.

^{at persons} The church shall serve as the vehicle for bringing men to God through Christ. To this end, it shall arrange for regular services of worship, prayer, interpretation of the scriptures, and edification through the teaching and preaching of the Word.

C. Sacraments:

The Church shall embrace two Holy Sacraments:

1. Baptism by water and the Spirit, as recorded in Matthew 28:19 and as exemplified by Christ at the hands of John the Baptist. This baptism shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and His service. Through the words and acts of this baptism, the words, "God's own Child" shall be stamped upon the recipient.
2. Holy Communion (or the Mass), which is the partaking of bread and wine symbolizing the broken body and spilt blood of Jesus Christ.

All who believe, confess and repent, and seek God's love after examining their own conscience may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into His Fellowship, and be saved by His sacrifice.

Tuesday

D. Rituals:

The rites of the Church, as performed by its duly appointed Ministers shall consist of:

1. The Office of Ordination, evidenced by the "Laying on of Hands," by its duly ordained ministers, initiating the Church's servants into the duly constituted offices of Elders, Deacons, Exhorters, and Ministers of the Gospel. Such ordination shall extend throughout the lifetime of the Ordinee, unless decreed otherwise by the Church Disciplinary Boards in regularly constituted meetings.
2. Membership in the Church can be achieved by letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through confirmation and/or affirmation of Faith, after duly studious effort in classes instituted for instruction in the beliefs and doctrines of the Church.
3. The office of Holy Matrimony or Holy Union shall be a rite of the Church performed by its Licensed or Ordained Ministers in a manner fitting and proper as prescribed in the "Orders of Worship." The partners in this marriage or union shall be counseled and appraised of their responsibility in being enjoined with God's blessing.
4. The church will conduct, as a rite, fitting services for the dead, committing their bodies back to the earth from which they came, and their spirits unto God's eternal care.
5. The church, through the duly appointed and ordained offices, shall encourage healing of the sick of mind, and body through prayer and supplication.
6. And a rite of the Fellowship shall be the consecration and/or dedication of a church building to the eternal glory of God.

These, then, are the tenets of our Fellowship. It is our hope and prayer that they will continue to have meaningful application to the members, congregations, and groups constituting the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES. We reverently trust that they may be added unto, expanded, and developed as man's need for understanding of, and dependency upon God continues.

personhood
ARTICLE V

Friday

A. The UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES recognizes four orders of the Ministry.

1. DEACONS

The Scriptures clearly point out Deacons as distinctive officers in the Church. This office is one of sympathy and service after the Lord Jesus. Those individuals who are selected and set apart according to the Holy Scripture for helping the Pastors in a local Church will hold this office.

2. EXHORTERS

Individuals who feel called by the Lord to the Ministry, and wish to be recognized by the local church.

3. LICENSED MINISTERS:

Those individuals who have proven their calling by their work and have gone into the Ministry.

4. ORDAINED MINISTERS:

Those individuals who are in full time Christian service and have met the requirements of a Bishop as stated in the scripture, I Timothy 3:1-7.

B. Requirements of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES for the Ministry.

1. DEACONS

Deacons shall be chosen persons of Spiritual mind, exemplary life, friendly spirit and sound judgment. The requirements of Deacons shall be as those recorded in I Timothy 3:8-16.

2. EXHORTERS

Anyone feeling the call to the Ministry shall notify his Pastor. The Pastor may give the person the right to preach at meetings at the local parish. Three months after the notification, if the individual has proven himself through faithfulness and service to the Church, the Pastor may call a special meeting at any church service and ask the members of the congregation to make a motion and second, that the individual be licensed as an Exhorter. If the motion carries, the Clerk of the Church will issue an Exhorter's License to this person and will list this action in the minutes of the local Church. The Clerk of

the local church will send a copy of the minutes to the Ministerial Credentials Committee of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES where it will be recorded. An Exhorter may request renewal of his credentials annually and before the expiration date.

3. LICENSED MINISTERS:

Persons seeking such licenses shall have served as an Exhorter for at least six months and be in Christian Service (Pastoring, Evangelizing, Teaching, etc.). The candidate shall present himself to the Ministerial Credentials Committee at the annual convention, or at special meetings of the Committee throughout the year, requesting to become a licensed Minister. After questioning the candidate, the Committee will determine whether a license should be issued. A Licensed Minister may request renewal of his credentials annually, on or before the expiration date.

4. ORDAINED MINISTERS:

To be considered for ordination, the person shall have been a Licensed Minister for at least one year. To become an Ordained Minister, the Licensee must be presented by an Ordained Minister as a candidate for ordination to the Credentials Committee of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES. After questioning the candidate, the Committee will determine whether the candidate should be ordained.

C. Duties of the ministry of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES.

1. DEACONS

Deacons shall minister to those in need; the sick, the friendless, and those persons who may be in distress in accordance with the spiritual duties of the office. These duties shall include administering the sacraments, with the consent of their superior.

2. EXHORTERS

Exhorters will assist the local church in the broad areas of Christian Service, as Public Speaker, Counselor, Teacher and such other duties as assigned by the local church. The Ministerial Credentials Committee of the Fellowship may authorize the Exhorter to administer the Sacraments and rites of the church in an emergency situation.

3. LICENSED MINISTERS

The Licensed Minister may perform all functions of the Ministry, with the exception of administering Sacraments and Rites (unless also authorized to perform these functions by decree of the Ministerial Credentials Committee).

4. ORDAINED MINISTER:

The Ordained Minister shall be required to shepherd his flock, to preach the gospel as stated in the Doctrine of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws of same, to administer the Sacraments and perform the Rites of the church.

D. MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS:

It is the policy of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, in accepting Ministers from other denominations, to receive them in the rank of the ministry deemed proper by the Ministerial Credentials Committee, which shall question such candidates in the same manner as other candidates to determine whether they are worthy of the ministry.

E. DISCIPLINE AND REMOVAL OF MINISTERS:

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches cannot condone disloyalty or unbecoming conduct in the ministry, and therefore makes the following provisions for discipline and removal of Ministers:

1. DEACONS AND EXHORTERS

The local church body at any regular or specially called meeting shall have the right to remove those in the Ministry holding the rank of Deacon or Exhorter. The Board of Directors may impose for cause such lesser discipline as it may deem appropriate. Such action shall be taken only after a determination by a majority vote of those voting members of the Board of Directors that such Deacon or Exhorter has brought reproach upon the Church. The local church, upon a majority vote of those voting members present may revoke the ordination of a Deacon or revoke a license of an Exhorter.

2. LICENSED MINISTERS

Disciplinary action against Licensed Ministers is reserved to the Ministerial Credentials Committee of the

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES. The Ministerial Credentials Committee, upon a majority vote of the members thereof, may refuse to renew the license of a Licensed Minister after the issued credentials have expired, or to impose such lesser discipline as it may deem appropriate.

3. ORDAINED MINISTERS

Disciplinary action against Ordained Ministers is reserved to the Ministerial Credentials Committee of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES. Such action may be initiated only by a formal statement of charges brought against the Ordained Minister by a majority vote of a local congregation, or a formal statement of charges by two Ordained Ministers. The Ministerial Credentials Committee shall schedule a hearing upon the charges at a special meeting of the Ministerial Credentials Committee or at the next Annual Conference, whichever shall occur first. All parties shall have a right to be heard at the hearing. After the hearing, the Ministerial Credentials Committee shall make findings on each of the charges which were brought against the Ordained Minister. If the Ministerial Credentials Committee shall determine that the charges, or some of them, are true, they shall then determine whether the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES should dismiss the Ordained Minister or retain him. If the Ministerial Credentials Committee shall vote to retain the Ordained Minister, they may impose such lesser sanctions as they may deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VI

Any person desiring to become a member of any Church which is a member of the Fellowship, shall submit his application to the Clerk and the Board of Directors of such church. Upon approval of such Board he shall be admitted to membership, after affirmation of Faith, Baptism or by Letter of Transfer from any other local church body.

Any member who does not have registered attendance, identified financial support, definite service contribution, or expressed interest and loyalty during the period of the calendar year, shall be placed on an inactive members list. At that time the Board of Directors of his local church shall notify the member in writing that he has been placed on such list, and is not eligible to vote at any business meeting of the Local Church Body. After notification, if the member has not expressed further interest, or loyalty for a period of one year immediately following, the Board of Directors of his local church shall have the authority, in their discretion, to drop any such member from the church rolls. The member may be restored to regular standing in the congregation by a vote of the

Board of Directors of his local church, without a public reception into membership.

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

A local church body may, if it desires, accept into the church persons who, for one reason or another, feel that they cannot become regular members of the church, but who support the goals of the church and want to be a part of the work of the church. Such people shall be designated as "Friends of the Church." Friends may serve on appointed committees, and may participate in all activities of the church. Friends may not, however, serve on the Board of Directors, or the Board of Deacons, and may not vote at congregational meetings. Friends shall not be considered in determining the number of Lay Delegates which a local church body may send to meetings of the General Conference of the Fellowship.

ARTICLE VII

SERVICE AND MEETINGS

Services of public worship shall be regularly held each Sunday. Other worship services may be held as determined by the Pastor, with the approval of the Board of Directors of the local church. The Sacrament of Holy Communion may be administered at each worship service. The Pastor of each local church may administer communion to aged or infirmed persons at his discretion. Holy Baptism may be administered at any service of the local church, or at any other time, at the Pastor's discretion.

The General Conference of the Fellowship for the transaction of business will be held during the month of September of each year. The General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is that body consisting of all Licensed Ministers, Ordained Ministers and Elders who are affiliated with the Fellowship and the Lay Delegates elected by the local churches to vote at the General Conference. Each local church may elect one delegate for each one hundred members, or portion thereof, that it carries on its membership rolls. Members who have been placed on the inactive list in the local church body shall not be considered in determining the number of Lay Delegates which a local church body may send to meetings of the General Conference of the Fellowship.

District Conferences may be held quarterly between General Conferences of the Fellowship. A District Conference is that meeting of all local church bodies and missions contained within a geographical area defined by the Board of Elders. Voting rights at these conferences shall be determined in the same manner as General Conference, except unchartered missions shall be allowed one clergy and one Lay Delegate vote.

Special meetings of the Fellowship, District Conferences, and

of the local church bodies, for the transaction of business may be held with adequate notice from time to time when required. The nature and purpose of these special meetings shall be generally stated before the contemplated special meeting. ~~Twenty percent~~ of the local church membership shall constitute a quorum at any business meeting of that local church. A majority of the votes cast shall decide all questions including the election or recall or removal of a pastor.

All those desiring to vote in either the General Conference of the Fellowship or the Annual Business Meeting or any Special Meeting of the local church shall be a member in good standing for a minimum of 90 days.

ARTICLE VIII

OFFICERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP AND THEIR DUTIES

The Board of Elders of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES shall consist of four members of this Fellowship. It will be the responsibility of the Board of Elders to hold office of Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Fellowship, to establish and make appointments to the various boards, commissions and committees. The Board of Elders is authorized to conduct all business, as is necessary, between General Conferences in order to see that the Fellowship operates in an orderly manner.

Persons who are chosen to the office of Elder be continued in office by a vote of confidence of the General Conference once every four years, voting on one at each annual meeting of the General Conference (if an Elder receives a vote of "No Confidence" the Elder will tender his resignation to the General Conference who will elect another Elder to the board.) If the office becomes vacant between General Conferences through death, disability or resignation, the office will be filled by an appointment of the remaining Elders and shall be presented to the General Conference.

DISTRICT CO-ORDINATOR

The meeting of District Conferences shall elect a Licensed or Ordained Minister to serve for a one year period between General Conferences in the office of Co-ordinator. It is the duty of the District Co-ordinator to act as Moderator of all District Conference Meetings, act as the official representative of the Board of Elders in the District where the Co-ordinator is appointed to serve, and to see with the Board of Elders that every church under his jurisdiction is supplied with a pastor. If a special meeting of any local church body is called to give a vote of confidence, or no confidence, the District Co-ordinator and Board of Elders must be given notice that such action is being taken. If the District Co-ordinator and/or Board of Elders so desire they will then make plans to have a representative attend said meeting as an impartial observer. If a vote of

"No" Confidence is expressed, the Board of Directors will meet immediately after the meeting with the representative of the District Co-ordinator and Board of Elders and elect a Worship Co-ordinator until the Board of Directors can confirm the choice of the congregation of the local church as to who will become Pastor. The Board of Directors will confer with the District Co-ordinator and Board of Elders of the Fellowship as to available candidates for the office of pastor. The Board of Directors will act as the pulpit committee of the local church body to present the candidates to the congregation. The congregation will elect a new pastor at a business meeting called by the Board of Directors.

DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER

At the first meeting of the District Conference after the annual General Conference of this Fellowship, the members and ministers of the local church bodies in the district shall elect a District Secretary-Treasurer to serve for a one year period. It is the duty of the District Secretary-Treasurer to maintain complete records of the district work. The District Secretary-Treasurer will secure the names and addresses of every minister in said district, also the location of each church and keep a record of same. The District Secretary-Treasurers are to make a report of new churches and missions and the date organized. It is also the responsibility of this person to keep all financial records of the district. This officer shall make financial reports to the Board of Elders, District Co-ordinator and the District Conference as requested.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the local church bodies, shall consist of from five to nine members of the local church, and they shall hold office for a term of three years, (with the exception of the Pastor, who will hold office until the pulpit becomes vacated) and until a successor is elected and installed, provided, however, that the term of one-third of the members of the Board shall expire each year, and that other members shall be elected to fill the vacancies thus created. Members of the Board of Directors may serve two terms consecutively. The Board of Directors shall be subject only to the vote of the local church membership, and to those by-laws, and shall have charge of all matters pertaining to the Articles of Incorporation, Church Property, Finances and Physical Affairs of the local church bodies. The Directors shall have general over-sight of the religious and spiritual affairs of the church, may assist in the distribution of Holy Communion, shall receive the tithes and offerings of public worship, shall act as ushers and as church greeters. They may also assist the pastor in visiting the aged and infirmed, contacting prospective members and keeping the church membership rolls up-to-date. The Pastor of the local church body shall have the responsibility for the religious services of the church and may participate ex-officio in the activities of any of the Boards, Committees, and organizations

within the local church. The Pastor shall act as moderator of all business meetings. Associate or Assistant Pastor, and other compensated personnel shall be appointed by the Pastor, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and any budgetary limitations. The Pastor shall act as Personnel Director of the compensated staff, and shall have the authority to delegate such responsibilities and duties as to him may seem wise, and shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, determine compensation, vacation periods and titles of office of the compensated staff.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons of the local church bodies, shall consist of from three to nine members of that local church, and they shall hold office for a term of three years, provided, however, that the term of one-third of the members of the Board of Deacons shall expire each year. Members of this board may serve for two terms consecutively. The Deacons will be elected by the members of the local church bodies where they serve. The Board of Directors of the local church body will assign the areas of responsibility within the parish to the individual members of the Board of Deacons in regard to the members of the church, in having, with the Pastor, the general oversight of the religious and spiritual affairs of the church, in assisting, and where necessary distributing Holy Communion. They may also assist the Pastor in visiting the aged and infirmed, and may preach when given the opportunity by the Pastor. The Board of Deacons shall assume such duties not limited to the foregoing, as may be delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the local church body. The Board of Deacons may elect from its membership a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Deacons shall hold stated meetings. Special meetings shall be held whenever requested by its members or the Board of Directors, or by the Pastor. The Board shall keep a record of its proceedings and shall submit its records to the Board of Directors for approval once a year at the October General Meeting of the congregation, and at other times upon the request of the Board of Directors of the local church. The Board of Deacons is not a legislative body of the local church, but it may make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the local church body, where said Board of Directors may act upon said recommendations.

CHURCH CLERK

The Church Clerk shall be responsible for giving proper notice of all authorized meetings of the local church body, for the recording of all business at such meetings, for the maintenance of a complete list of members, showing time and mode of admission and dismissal. The Church Clerk shall also maintain a Sacramental Record, covering Baptisms, Communion, Marriages and Deaths. He shall be elected from the Board of Directors.

CHURCH TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected from the Board of Directors, and shall be responsible for the receipt and safekeeping of all funds of the local church including all subsidiary and deposited accounts. He shall also be responsible for the keeping of accurate books of accounts and shall disburse monies only upon the order of the Board, Committee or other constituted group having authority over the funds drawn upon. Whenever possible, all funds shall be disbursed by bank checks, which checks shall bear two signatures. The authorized signatures shall be those of the Treasurer, a Pastor and the Clerk. The Treasurer shall prepare, or cause to prepare, a monthly report to the Board of Directors, a copy of which shall be available to any member of the local church body at the Treasurer's office. He shall prepare and present at the annual business meeting a financial report covering all funds and accounts for which he is responsible, a statement of funds on hand at the beginning of the year, amounts received and disbursed, and amounts on hand in each of such funds at the close of the year. The Treasurer's report shall be audited annually by the Board of Directors, or an auditor named by the Board.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

The Nominations Committee shall consist of as many members as there are elective boards and standing committees of local church bodies, plus one member who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Pastor. Various boards and committees shall, in the first week of August of each year, select members of the Nominations Committee from among its own number, and shall notify the Church Clerk of its selection. The Nominations Committee shall nominate at least one for each office to be filled at the annual meeting. The nominations shall be reported to the Church Clerk, who shall mail a copy of this report to each church member not later than two weeks before the annual meeting. Additional nominations shall be received from the floor before any election is held at an annual meeting. The election of officers shall also include selection of any delegate or alternate delegate to local, state, national, international conferences or other organizations to which the church may be entitled to send delegates. All elections must be conducted by secret ballots.

OTHER BOARDS, COMMITTEES, ETC.

Such additional Boards and Committees may be brought into existence at the request of the Pastor, Board of Directors, or at the request of the membership, as the need arises in the local church bodies. The Pastor shall appoint the head of any such Board or Committee.

ARTICLE IX

STANDARD PROCEDURES

All elected or appointed officials of the local church body

shall be installed in office within two weeks after the annual meeting, and each Board or Committee shall hold its first meeting within four weeks after the annual meeting. Each of the Boards or Committees shall hold not less than six regular meetings per year, and may, if the occasion arises, meet in special session at the call of the presiding officer. Each of the Boards and Committees shall keep a written record of proceedings. At the end of the calendar year, such records will be submitted to the office of the Church Clerk for permanent filing.

In the event of the resignation or death of a Board or Committee member, the remaining members of the Board or Committee shall appoint a member of the church to fill the vacancy for the balance of the unexpired term of office.

ARTICLE X

CHURCH FINANCES

At each service of public worship of the local church body, an offering shall be received by the Board of Directors, and the proceeds thereof given into the safe-keeping of the Church Treasurer. Such monies shall be distributed to maintain the financial structure of the church, support the compensation staff, advance the Christian cause by the assistance of Missions, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Orphanages or Church related schools.

Visiting pastors or missionaries who may be called upon to preach at public worship, either during the vacation or illness of the pastor, or during a special series of meetings, will be paid from the General Fund of the Church, with the amount being paid to said pastor or missionary to be determined by the Board of Directors.

At the meeting of any District Conference, special offerings may be received to help in the work of that district.

Each local church body will contribute 5% of its general offering to the Board of Elders of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, to help in the work of establishing new Missions for our Fellowship, and each local church body shall set aside 5% of its general offerings as an "Other Missions Fund" to help establish Missions in its own home areas.

ARTICLE XI

RESERVATION OF POWERS

All powers not delegated by these by-laws are reserved to the membership of the local church body and may be exercised by the voting members in meetings of the local church duly convened after adequate notice.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be amended or repealed at any duly convened meeting of the General Conference. Such amendments or repeal shall not be effective unless two-thirds of the duly authorized delegates vote in favor of such amendment or repeal.

These By-laws shall become effective immediately upon the adoption by the Board of Elders of the UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES, and shall become binding upon each church body as it presents itself for, and is accepted into membership in the Fellowship by the Board of Elders.

ACCEPTED COMMITTEE, BOARD
AND COMMISSION REPORTS AT
SECOND ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

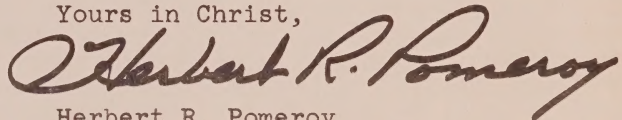
UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
2201 So. Union Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
Phone: 213 -- 748-0123

Dear Members:

Hereafter are reported the reports and resolutions accepted by the Ministers and Elected Delegates of our Second Annual General Conference, held September 3, 4 and 5, 1971. They are given to you as they were voted on and accepted in their modified form.

I have not listed any of the debates and initial forms in which they may have existed, only the approved reports and resolutions.

Yours in Christ,



Herbert R. Pomeroy
Secretary to the General Conference

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

HRP/s

Certified by:


RICHARD PLOEN
Clerk of the Board of Elders

"LIFE IS A JOY TO BE CELEBRATED--NOT A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED."

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

September 1, 1971

Ministers and Delegates
In Assembly for
Second General Conference of
The Universal Fellowship of
Metropolitan Community Churches

Brethren, Greetings in Christ's Name:

The intent and purpose of the presentation of this White Paper is to give an accounting of the "State of the Church." This document will be made available to official delegates upon registration for the Conference, and will be presented as the first piece of official business for the Business Session on Saturday, September 4, 1971.

In this document, you will be appraised of the actions of the Board of Elders during the fiscal year, September 1970 through August 1971. Included will be the report of the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer, and Clerk.

Further, in consideration of economies of time, it will contain recommendations and resolutions for action by this Conference which hopefully will be considered by the Conference as approving these recommendations and actions as a single entity. Exception will apply to the addends relative to By-Law changes which require 2/3 majority vote for adoption.

The Lord has seen fit to bless and prosper our work during the year past. He has, on occasion, laid some burdens on our hearts, and made us aware of some of our shortcomings. Further, He has admonished us to labor ever more diligently in extending His Saving Grace to more and more of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

For the sake of comparison, it is interesting to note that at the First General Conference of the Fellowship, there were 5 churches and 4 missions then in existence. The 5 churches with official representation at the First General Conference were Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Chicago and Phoenix. Represented at the Second Annual Conference are the following churches with official representation, and Missions with observer status:

Los Angeles, California with 6 delegates and 5 pastors. (N.B.) although Rev. Hose functions as Asst. Pastor of the Los Angeles Congregation, he is the Pastor at San Diego, and will thus represent that Church.

San Diego, California with 2 delegates and 3 pastors.

San Francisco, California with 2 delegates and 2 pastors.

Chicago, Illinois with 1 delegate and 2 pastors (one active and representing the Milwaukee Mission, cf. below.)

Phoenix, Arizona with 1 delegates and 1 pastor.

Miami, Florida with 2 delegates and 2 pastors.

Costa Mesa, California with 1 delegates and 1 pastor.

Dallas, Texas with 1 delegates and 2 pastors.

Honolulu, Hawaii with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Washington, D. C. with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Oakland, California with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Tampa, Florida with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Denver, Colorado with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Sacramento, California with 1 delegate and 1 pastor.

Recognized official missions and their sponsoring churches (wherein licensed and/or ordained Ministers are official delegates, otherwise the mission has observer status.)

Milwaukee Mission of Chicago - Rev. Paul Sydman

Tucson Mission of Phoenix - no pastor

San Jose Mission of San Francisco - no pastor

Fresno Mission of Los Angeles - Interim Pastor - Deacon Ray Cook

New Orleans Mission of San Diego - Rev. David E. Solomon

In subsequent accounting, the actions of the Board of Elders in accepting for Ordination and/or Licensing of various ministers, as well as the chartering of churches or establishment of Mission will be delineated.

The action of the 5 founding Congregations and their delegates to accept and accredit the aforementioned pastors and churches will have transpired prior to the formal presentation of this paper. This accounting is therefore ex post facto.

Significant Action taken in meetings of the Board of Elders is here historically accounted for:

December 8, 1970

Forms were presented and approved for Chartering Churches and sent to the printer. Elder Lou Loynes reported on his visit to the Dallas Mission. Pursuant to, and in accord with the action of General Conference, the Elders drew lots for the yearly dates of their

quadrennial review by the General Conference. The casting of the lots determined that Rev. Troy Perry will be reviewed in 1971, Rev. John H. Hose in 1972, Rev. Richard Ploen in 1973 and Elder Louis Loynes in 1974. Rev. Hose, President of Samaritan Bible Seminary reported on the status of the enrollment, faculty, and general progress of the first quarter, and noted that curriculum and faculty were set for the second quarter. Efforts were made to reduce the indebtedness of In Unity.

Recognizing the growing needs for communications on a continuing basis for the Fellowship, the Board acted to appoint Rev. John H. Hose as Administrative Officer of the Fellowship with an honorarium of \$100 per month at this time.

January 10, 1971

In a brief meeting of the Board of Elders, request for licensing Rev. Ronald Hansen, Deacon and Worship Coordinator of the Hawaii Mission was approved.

February 9, 1971

Rev. Perry reported on his tour of churches and missions, including visits to Dallas, Phoenix, Miami, and Denver. Rev. Kenneth Jones returned to Los Angeles for re-assignment and Rev. Robert Cunningham of San Diego was asked to go to Phoenix as Interim Pastor. Dean Richard Ploen reported on the status of the Seminary. Enrollment for the Winter trimester was set at 11 students. Revs. Perry, Hose and Bullock will comprise the faculty for the Spring Quarter. A brochure outlining the purposes and course offerings of the Seminary was prepared and printed.

The credentials of the following were reviewed and acted upon favorably:

1. Rev. Allen Haberkorn was licensed as pastor of the Denver Mission.
2. Rev. Don Hoffman was ordained into the Ministry of the Fellowship, to function as Assistant Pastor in Miami.
3. Rev. Rodger Harrison was presented for ordination into the Ministry of the Fellowship, to serve as pastor of the Costa Mesa, California Mission.
4. Deacon Howard Williams was presented for licensure to serve as Assistant Pastor of San Diego.
5. Deacon Robert Cunningham of the San Diego Church was presented for licensure, to serve as Interim Pastor of the Phoenix Church.

March 2, 1971

The Board acted to send a Love Offering of \$100 to the Phoenix Church to assist them in their time of need. A request was submitted from our Honolulu Church petitioning charter. The request was then

approved, with the Rev. Ronald Hansen (licensed minister) to be the pastor.

The Costa Mesa Mission also petitioned for chartering on Easter Sunday, Rev. Rodger Harrison, pastor. The request was approved.

Reports were received on the progress of the Oakland, Sacramento and Tucson missions. The San Diego church is sponsoring the New Orleans Mission, which was in the exploratory stages. We are also, as a denomination, lending moral support to a Presbyterian Ministerial Student in Louisville, Ky. in his efforts to get the work started there.

The board acted upon recommendations from the Ministerial Credentials Committee for the licensing and ordaining of:

1. Tom Markham, Deacon in San Diego, candidate for licensure to go to Houston as a missionary. This mission also to be sponsored by the San Diego Church.
2. Louis A. Loynes, Elder, to be ordained in the first service of worship in the new Los Angeles Sanctuary.

The indebtedness on In Unity was completely liquidated, and a publisher was established.

April 5, 1971

The Tampa Mission reported that they are alive and well, at first service averaging 85 in attendance under the leadership of Lee Carlton, ordained former Pentecostal Minister.

The Board acted to grant charter to the Dallas Mission and to grant Licenses to Richard Vincent and Ruth Shivers.

Rev. Ronald Carnes was received from the Evangelical Methodist Church, and accepted into the Fellowship as an Ordained Minister. Further, the Board acted to send Rev. Hose to Denver, along with Rev. Carnes to function in advise and consent capacity with regard to the Denver Mission.

The Dean, Richard Ploen, of Samaritan Seminary showed a financial report on the school's activities, and a balance of \$278.74 in the treasury.

May 11, 1971

The Board considered and acted upon the following requests for licensure and/or ordination:

1. Rev. Paul Breton, Washington, D. C., accepted by transfer.

Also, the Board voted to charter as a church, and receive the Community Church of Washington, D. C. into the Fellowship as a Congregation.

2. Lee J. Carlton was presented for licensure, and as pastor of the Tampa Mission.
3. Alice Naumoff, was presented for licensure, to act as Assistant Pastor of the San Francisco Congregation.
4. James Sandmire, was presented for licensure, to act as Pastor of the East Bay Mission, Oakland, California.
5. Paul Sydman, was presented for licensure, to act as Pastor of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Mission.

Dates were set, and plans begun for the Second General Conference of the Fellowship, to be held in Los Angeles, Sept. 3, 4, and 5, 1971.

June 8, 1971

Dates of the General Conference were confirmed, letter to all congregations and Agenda for the Conference completed. The following committees were appointed for the General Conference.

Ministerial Credentials Committee: Rev. Rodger Harrision - Ch.
Rev. Arthur Green
Rev. Brad Wilson

Committee on National Emblem: Rev. Jim Sandmire - Ch.
Rev. Vincent - Dallas
Rev. Hansen - Honolulu

Commission on Evangelism: Rev. Howard Wells - Ch
Rev. Paul Sydman
Rev. Lee Carlton

Commission on Social Action: Rev. Don Hoffman - Ch.
Rev. Paul Breton
Terry Luton - L.A. Delegate

The Rev. David E. Solomon, founder and acting pastor of the New Orleans Mission was approved for licensing.

July 20, 1971

The Board continued work on the General Conference. Petitions relative to action at the Conference were received from various Congregations, studied thoroughly.

Recommended by-law changes were compiled and forwarded to all

churches, as per the Addenda I attached to this report.

It was determined by the Board of Elders that the Keynote Address at the General Conference each year should be delivered by the Elder who is receiving his Quadrennial Review.

As recorded elsewhere in this document, Rev. Troy Perry was chosen by lot to be reviewed in 1971. He will, in rotation, therefore again be reviewed in 1975. The Board of Elders heartily recommends Rev. Perry's efforts, in the office of Moderator, as well as a member of the Board of Elders. We invite you to extend a vote of confidence and gratitude to him in the ensuing 4 years. Your acceptance of this report, and its recommendations and resolutions will be inclusive of your acceptance of his continuing leadership. (Rev. Troy D. Perry was continued on the Board of Elders by a vote of 45 yes and 1 abstain for the next 4 years.)

August 3 and August 24, 1971

Work was continued on planning the General Conference. This white paper was presented for amendment and approval. The Treasurer's report was received and consolidated, and appears herein as Addenda III. Candidates for Ordination, Licensure, and assignment were reviewed, these to be presented to the Conference Committee on Ministerial Credentials. All licensed ministers are also to be reviewed by the Conference Committee.

Report forms were devised by the Administrative Officer, Elder John Hose, and are attached to this report as Addenda II. It is herein also noted that during the past year, your Board of Elders have participated in the following visitations to Congregations and/or Missions. It is our intention, with your continued and improved financial support, to extend and broaden these visitations in the coming year.

Rev. Troy D. Perry - Miami, Washington, D. C., Dallas, Denver, Phoenix, Chicago, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, Costa Mesa, Hawaii, and Fresno.

Rev. John Hose - Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, Costa Mesa.

Rev. Richard Ploen - San Francisco, Oakland, Costa Mesa, Fresno, Phoenix, San Diego, Sacramento.

Rev. Louis Loynes - Dallas, San Francisco, Costa Mesa, San Diego

As of this date (August 31, 1971), the State of the Church is as follows:

CHARTERED CHURCHES

1. Los Angeles, California - 2201 S. Union Ave., L. A. 90007
2. San Diego, California - 906 N. 47th St., S. D.
3. San Francisco, California - 1760 Market St., S. F.
4. Chicago, Illinois - 3342 N. Broadway, Chgo. 60657
5. Phoenix, Arizona - 1426 E. Maricopa Freeway, 85004
6. Miami, Florida - N. W. 70th St. and 4th Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.
7. Washington, D. C. - 705-7th St., S.E., Washington 20003
8. Costa Mesa, Cal. - 1259 Victoria St., Costa Mesa 92627
9. Dallas, Texas - 4015 Normandy, Dallas - P. O. Box 1344
10. Honolulu, Hawaii - 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu
11. Oakland, Cal. - 440 Santa Clara, Oakland, 94610
12. Tampa, Fla. - 2904 Concordia, Tampa 33602
13. Denver, Colo. - 1400 Lafayette St., Denver
14. Sacramento, Cal. - 902 "J" St., Sacramento

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. John H. Hose, Vice Moderator
and Administrative Officer
For the Board of Elders

(signature)

A complete report on Samaritan Bible Seminary, as required by action taken at the 1st General Conference has been covered under a complete study prepared by Rev. Hose in conjunction with the University of Southern California Department of Education, Copies of this document have been printed for distribution to the delegates here assembled, and are also available for sale to members of your local Church.

ADDENDA II - REPORTING FORMS

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Incorporated January 8, 1971 under File No. 614819 by the State of California, Edmund G. Brown, Sec'y of State.

Report for the month of: _____, 197_

Metropolitan Community Church of _____

Name & Address of Current Treasurer: _____

Name & Address of Current Clerk: _____

New members received this month _____. Total Members _____.

STATISTICS:

Date	Attendance & No. of Services	Offering	Designated Offering	5% due
TOTALS FOR THE MONTH				

Enclosed find our check in the amount of \$ _____ drawn to the Universal Fellowship of M. C. C.'s., payment in full for the 5% of our regular offerings as shown in the above, as well as the included sum of \$ _____ for the sale of _____ copies of IN UNITY.

(Due and Payable no later than the 10th of the ensuing month)

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS BY YOUR CONGREGATION OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
(If not sufficient space, use the other side, return in enclosed, postage paid envelope.)

ADDENDA II - Page 2 - PASTOR'S REPORT FORM

1. Number of Worship Services Conducted _____
2. Baptisms: _____ (number)
3. Holy Unions: _____ (number)
4. Memorial Services: _____ (number)
5. Meetings attended in which you represented the church or the Community: _____ (Include Board Meetings)
6. Please include any items which would be of interest to the Fellowship for inclusion in the next issue of IN UNITY.

ADDENDA III

TREASURER'S REPORT - BOOKS CLOSING AUGUST 15, 1971

INCOME:

Contributions by member churches	\$ 3,058.14
Sale of In Unity	687.76
Sale of By-Laws	35.00
General Conference Receipts, 1970	691.45
Miscellaneous contributions	<u>79.40</u>
 TOTAL RECEIPTS	 \$ 4,551.75

EXPENDITURES:

Office supplies & services	548.05
Transportation & Travel	639.50
Honorariums	1,196.10
Donations (Phoenix Church)	100.00
Publications	<u>1,302.73</u>
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	 \$ 3,786.38

BALANCE ON HAND IN TREASURY:	\$ 765.37
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CONTRIBUTIONS BY MEMBER CHURCHES THROUGH AUGUST 15, 1971

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>PAID FROM</u>	<u>PAID TO</u>	<u>ARREARS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Chicago	10-70	6-71¶	7-71¶	\$213.48
Costa Mesa	4-71	7-71	----	87.60
Dallas	6-71	----	6-71, 7-71	-----
Hawaii	6-71	----	6-71, 7-71	-----
Los Angeles	10-70	5-71*	6-71* 7-71	2,124.95
Miami	10-70	12-70	1-71 to 7-71	94.99
Oakland	6-71	----	6-71, 7-71	-----
Phoenix	9-70	10-70	11-70 to 7-71	42.88
San Diego	9-70	6-71	7-71+	250.72
San Francisco	10-70	3-71	1-71, 4-71 to 7-71 §	243.52
Tampa	8-71	----	-----	-----
Washington, D.C.	5-71	----	5-71 to 7-71	-----
Denver, Col.	10-71	----	-----	-----
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS				\$3,058.14

¶¶ - July payment received too late for inclusion

** - June payment received too late for inclusion

§§ - Arrears payments en route, via advice from Treasurer

++ - July payment received too late for inclusion

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
2201 South Union Avenue, Los Angeles, California
Telephone -- 213 - 748-3086

September 1, 1971

Ministers and Delegates in Assembly for the Second General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Brethren:

In accordance with a motion made, seconded and carried (this conference heartily recommends the establishment of an educational institution for the training of the Lay Leadership of the Fellowship and the Board of Elders undertake such planning and action for the establishment of such institute, and the Board of Elders are to report back to the conference one year from this date as to the status of this institution. First Annual General Conference - 1970)

The following report is made for your consideration.

First, I would like to recommend that in conjunction with this report that each of our Delegates and Ministers read Elder John H. Hose's paper "A Plan to Educate Ministers for a Church Based Upon Changing Concepts of Morality," which is an explanation of "why" Samaritan Bible Seminary.

Second, we would like to give you some facts and figures concerning the school.

Samaritan Bible Seminary has just completed its first year in existence. In our classes conducted during the three quarters of this last year, Fall, Winter and Spring, we showed a high of 16 students. Of this number, 4 completed every class offered during the three quarters. 2 of the students have been involved in the actual preaching mission of our Fellowship. R. Charles "Lee" Spangenberg became the Worship Co-ordinator for the Mother Church, Fresno, California Mission, and Robert Darst became an Intern Pastor of Denver, Colorado under the auspices of Rev. Ron Carnes of the Denver Church.

Four of our other students have testified that they feel a call to full-time Christian Service and plan to become involved in the work of our Fellowship, after they graduate from Seminary in the Summer of 1972.

We are confident that as more of our churches become aware of the work of our Seminary, the student body will grow and become more representative of all the areas where we have churches.

continued

At the start of our Seminary year, September 20, 1971, the school will see its first student from outside of California.

Financially speaking, the Samaritan Bible Seminary has completed its first year in the Black. Following is a breakdown of Income and Expenses.

Income:

Tuition -----	\$ 196.00
Donations -----	218.00
Refund, School Days Equip. Co. -----	16.62
Book Sales -----	25.32

Total Income -----\$ 455.94

Expenses:

Textbooks -----	31.65
Instructors Gas Allowance -----	102.00
Printing, Brochures -----	12.50
Instructors Text -----	4.73
Classroom Equip. & Supplies -----	230.00
Postage & Office Supplies -----	7.35

Total Expenses ---\$ 388.23

Cash on Hand -----\$ 67.71

The above has been made possible for three reasons. First, the Mother Church has graciously consented to let the Seminary use some of its facilities rent free. Second, the faculty has dedicated their time and energy to teach without receiving any salary. Thirdly, Samaritan Bible Seminary was the recipient of around 1,000 volumes to use in its starting of a library by Claremont School of Theology, Claremont, California. Because of their generous gift, our Seminary has not had to pay large sums of money to buy research materials for our students.

In our 1971-1972 session of the school we expect the Lord to Bless the Seminary even more than He has this last year.

Your Committee on Education would therefore like to make the following recommendations:

Whereas Samaritan Bible Seminary is the school established by the Board of Elders for the training of leadership of the Fellowship, and whereas Samaritan Bible Seminary is the official educational institute of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches be it resolved that each pastor of all of our Churches and Missions recommend Samaritan Bible Seminary to any interested parties that feel they have a call to the ministry of our church, and furthermore, be it resolved that each of our churches and missions set aside the First

continued

Sunday in November as Samaritan Bible Seminary Day and that on that Sunday each year, our pastors actively support the Seminary from his pulpit, and receive an offering for the work of the same.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Reverend Richard Ploen
Dean, Samaritan Bible Seminary

RP/hp

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
FOR
ESTABLISHING NEW MISSIONS AND NEW CHURCHES

COMMITTEE ON EVANGELISM - 1971

Recognizing the times in which we live and the evident hand of God which has rested upon the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches for these times, and having engaged together in prayerful study in this Council on Evangelism concerning God's purpose in the world today and our place in His purpose, we make the following resolutions.

Resolutions

Because the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches came into being as the Holy Spirit called together bodies of like minded believers, voluntarily joined together in Worship, ministry, and service and

Because the Universal Fellowship has accepted the Commission of Christ to make disciples in the world, through the Christian Gospel of Love; and

Because the Universal Fellowship has grown rapidly at home and has continued to experience the blessings of God as it has sought to do His will, and be an instrument of Divine Purpose, therefore

The Council on Evangelism recognizes God's purposes concerning man to be:

1. To reveal himself through Christ to seek and save that which is lost,
2. To be Worshiped in Spirit and in Truth.
3. To build a body of believers in the image of His Son.

This Committee recognizes its mission to be an instrument of God for Evangelism in the world and offers the following suggestions for the creation and governing of new mission churches.

1. The Committee for Evangelism recommends that a concerted effort be made to establish more MCC Fellowships.
2. The responsibility for the establishment of a mission shall reside with:

(a) a district board of home missions to be comprised of the

continued

district co-ordinator and all pastors in the district, if the prospective mission under consideration is in the district.

- (b) The National Board of Missions, to be comprised of the Board of Elders and all district co-ordinators if the prospective mission under consideration is in an area in which there is no district.
3. The Committee for Evangelism recommends that mission teams be sent into cities to establish missions where adequate mission establishment contacts do not exist.
4. The District or National Board of Missions shall appoint an interim pastor. The spiritual and administrative prerequisites for an interim pastor shall be determined by the mission branch that would govern the prospective mission to be pastored. Mission bodies shall be required to submit monthly written "State of the Mission" reports to their mission boards, and the nature of the report to be determined by the respective mission boards. The interim pastor shall appoint a clerk and treasurer who, with the interim pastor, shall comprise an interim board of directors.
- When a mission is granted a charter by the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, an election shall be held for the position of Pastor, Board of Directors and Board of Deacons in accordance with the denominational by-laws.
5. All interested groups or persons desiring to become affiliated with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches as chartered bodies must be accepted in mission status and remain so for at least 90 days prior to petitioning for a charter in order to facilitate administrative and spiritual structuring of the mission body in such a manner as to be compatible with the Fellowship by-laws.

Rev. Howard R. Wells ---- signed

Rev. Paul W. Sydman ---- signed

Rev. Lee Carlton ---- signed

COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE A NATIONAL EMBLEM

September 3, 1971

The Committee to Formulate a National Emblem met at 1:00 p.m., September 3, 1971 to consider designs submitted to the committee. Two churches, The Elysian Fields Parish of New Orleans, Louisiana and the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles submitted proposed designs. All designs were meaningful and well done.

After deliberation, upon the motion of Reverend Ron Hanson, Seconded by Reverend Richard Vincent, the Committee voted unanimously to urge that this conference adopt the attached design as our National Emblem.

The emblem was designed by Mr. Al Correa, a member of the Metropolitan Community Church of Los Angeles.

The emblem is a round black circle on a white field. Enclosed in the circle starting from the middle and working out is the Alpha Omega Chiro Cross, which is worn by most of our membership. This is enclosed in a round red field. Extending from the red field to the black larger circle, is another white field. Imprinted in red in the white field are the words "Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches."

The committee urges the adoption of this emblem.

Respectfully submitted:

Reverend James E. Sandmire
for the Committee

This emblem may be seen on the cover of these minutes.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ACTION

The Committee on Social Action recommends the following:

That the Second General Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches be aware that many of the social changes which have taken place in mankind's history were advocated from the pulpits of organized religious denominations.

We ask this conference to study and examine ways in which the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches can further the freedom of ALL. We also urge this delegation to consider these areas - ALWAYS bearing in mind the mistakes made in the past by other minority groups where militancy has overcome common sense and common decency. We are first and foremost a Christian Church and our fight for freedom must be done within the concepts of Christian belief.

1. Resolved - that the conference state that it is the moral responsibility of all Christians to work for the freedom of all within our society and to end discrimination of all kinds.
2. Resolved - that the General Conference of the Universal Fellowship believe that nations can and should settle their differences without going to war. However, in the event of war, it will not affect the status of their membership if they engage in combatant military service. However, in the event our members are conscientious objectors, the church will support them in their constitutional rights.
3. Resolved - that member churches in the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches at the discretion of their local Board of Directors endeavor to cooperate with all responsible organizations (when not contrary to the policy of the Fellowship) in furthering the course of social justice.
4. Resolved - that the General Conference instruct the Elders of the church to petition to the National Council of Churches for full membership in that organization.

Rev. Don Hoffman ---- signed

Rev. Paul Breton ---- signed

Terry Luton ---- signed

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCHES
2201 South Union Avenue, Los Angeles, California
Telephone 213 -- 748-3086

September 3, 1971

To the Elected Delegates, Ministers and Elders making up the Second Annual Conference of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Greetings:

The Publications Committee of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches gives for your consideration, the following report:

At the First Annual General Conference last year, "In Unity" Magazine became the property of the Fellowship, making it our National Voice. It was our hope and prayer that "In Unity" truly would become that. At that conference, Mr. Joseph Gilbert became editor. After publishing the magazine for three months, Mr. Gilbert resigned that position and Mr. Donald Hughes was appointed to the Office of Chairman of our Publications Committee. We feel that "In Unity" has greatly improved, but still needs complete coverage from all of our Churches and Missions to truly be our voice.

"In Unity" can be anything we wish it to be. It is the desire of your Publications Committee to see a magazine that will do justice to the Fellowship, and that can be read and received in any home in America. That can be accomplished through several means.

When the Fellowship accepted the financial responsibility of "In Unity" from the Mother Church, the Fellowship paid off an indebtedness of \$700. The Board of Elders did this so the magazine would start off with a clean slate. The Board of Elders voted to absorb the cost of printing "In Unity" until it started to show a profit. Any profits made would go into the General Fund of the Fellowship. "In Unity", starting then with the May issue, showed a slight profit. As of the August issue, the Fellowship has spent \$929 in printing "In Unity" and has received from our churches and missions and sales, \$687.76 as of August 15, 1971.

If each of our churches were paid up-to-date, we would show a profit of \$293.86 by this General Conference. We realize that there has been some confusion as to payment of these accounts.

Some of our churches, we have learned, receives "In Unity" but it is never offered for sale at church services. Many of our members don't

continued

even realize that we have a National Magazine. Others sell some, but forget to report the number that is or is not sold making it impossible for us to know what your specific needs are. Therefore, your Publications Committee would like to make the following recommendations:

Whereas "In Unity" is the National Voice of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, and whereas "In Unity" is the only religious publication printed as an outreach to the Gay Community in America, probably in the World, we recommend that each of our churches and missions strive to help make "In Unity" newsworthy and available in every city where our work is established. We further recommend that each pastor in our Fellowship appoint an "In Unity" representative whose sole responsibility will be to collect newsworthy articles, sermons, and other feature stories that may be used in "In Unity" and to be the person to sell "In Unity" and to collect monies for the sale of same.

Further, it is recommended that each of our churches and missions purchase a sufficient quantity to use "In Unity" as a Missionary Tool to give away to interested individuals outside of our Fellowship.

It is further resolved that your Publications Committee heartily recommend the report form offered in the Board of Elders White Paper for use of our churches in reporting to the Board of Elders each month on this form, the Publications Committee will bill your congregation according to the number of copies requested and sent to your local church body.

Respectfully submitted

Donald Hughes, Chairman
Publications Committee ---- signed

Connie Vaughn, Co-editor, In Unity
---- signed

Pat Rardin, Co-editor, In Unity
---- signed

Rev. Troy D. Perry,
Publications Committee Member for the
Board of Elders ---- signed

Meeting of the Ministerial Credentials Committee of Metropolitan
Community Church - Second General Conference - September 1971

Report of the General Conference:

The Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Rev. Rodger Harrison. Present were Rev. Harrison, Rev. Green and Rev. Wilson.

The Committee voted to accept the resignation of Rev. Alan Haberkorn from the ministry of the Fellowship.

A resolution by the Oakland-East Bay Metropolitan Community Church was referred back to the Board of Elders for consideration.

The committee reaffirmed the ordination of: Rev. Troy Perry, Los Angeles, Rev. Louis Loynes, Los Angeles; Rev. John Hose, Los Angeles; Rev. Richard Ploen, Los Angeles; Rev. Arthur Green, Chicago; Rev. P. Bradley Wilson, Miami; Rev. Donald Hoffman, Miami; Rev. Rodger Harrison, Costa Mesa; and Rev. Ronald Carnes, Denver.

The Committee recommends for ordination the following brethren: Rev. Jon Bullock, Los Angeles; Rev. Theodore Calaway, Los Angeles; Rev. Lee Carlton, Tampa; Rev. Howard Well, San Francisco; Rev. Paul Van Hecke, Los Angeles.

The Committee further recommends for licensing for a period of one year the following: Joseph Gilbert, John Gill, Ron Hanson, Kenneth Jones, James Sandmire, Paul Sydman, Lee Spangenberg, Ruth Shivers, David Solomon, Howard Williams, Robert Cunningham, Paul Breton, Alice Naumoff and Richard Vincent.

The Committee voted not to renew the licensing of Tom Markham.

The request for ordination by the Rev. Michael Itkin was referred to a sub-committee chaired by Rev. Donald Hoffman of Miami.

The requests for licensing for: Alan Mros, Robert Grace, John E. Isbell and Ray Cook were referred back to the local congregations for action. Martin McCabe was also referred back to the local congregation.

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Rodger Harrison

Rev. Arthur Green

Rev. P. Bradley Wilson

signatures appeared as attached.

SUGGESTED ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Hymn)

* OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME

HYMN

* HOLY GOSPEL

* THE GLORIA

HYMN

SILENT AND PASTORAL PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANTHEM BY CHOIR, SOLO OR HYMN

SERMON

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

* DOXOLOGY

* GENERAL CONFESSION

* ABSOLUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Holy Communion of the Mass always starts with the General Confession by the entire group assembled for worship. The minister might say, "Will you please turn to the General Confession and let us read together"

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy Holy Laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare Thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of Thy Holy name. Amen

Then the minister shall say, "Let us Pray." He will then read the words of

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sin to all those who with heartily repentance and true faith, turn unto Him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all of your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The minister will then walk to the altar where the gifts await the people,

AND SAY:

Beloved in the Lord, as we draw near to the Lord's Table, we greatly recall the words of the Lord Jesus when He said, "Blessed are they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled. I am the living bread which came down out of Heaven, if any man eat this bread, he shall live forever. Yea, and the bread which I will give is My flesh for the life of the world. He that eateth this bread shall live forever. Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. For in the same night in which He was betrayed,

- (a) He took bread, and when he had given thanks
- (b) He break it and gave it to His disciples saying

"Take, eat, see, this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Likewise, after the supper, (c) He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it unto them saying, "Drink ye all of this for (d) this is My blood of the New Testament which was shed for you, and for many for the remissions of sin. Do this is often as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of Me.

Let us Pray:

We most humbly beseech you, O most merciful Father, to hear us and of Your goodness, to bless and sanctify with Your words and Holy Spirit, these Your gifts and creatures of Bread and Wine, that we receiving them according to Your Son and Savior Jesus Christ Holy institution, in remembrance of His Death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood. Amen.

After this prayer, the minister will move away from the altar to the kneelers where he will wait upon those who desire to participate in this most sacred act of our worship. As the individuals come and kneel for communion, the minister, as he gives them the bread and wine, may say:

In the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. Amen

or

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, strengthen and preserve you unto everlasting life. Amen

After serving all of the people there gathered, then the minister may take communion from the altar of the Lord, after which a benediction may be prayed and the group dismissed.

In receiving new members into the church the following form may be used. Those who are received by letter rise first in response to their names respectfully. Then those who are received on profession of their faith. The congregation now standing or seated, the minister shall say,

In extending a cordial welcome to you who are being received into our Christian Fellowship, it is becoming that you renew your profession of faith in Christ, in your purpose to live a Christian life and to be publicly welcomed into the fellowship of the congregation. Do you therefore in the presence of the congregation make acknowledgement of your faith in Christ in your purpose to live a Christian life and publicly declare your engagement to cultivate the spirit of Christian Fellowship and Brotherly Love and to seek the welfare of this congregation while you remain a member thereof - Answer - We do.

The minister shall then address the congregation as follows:

Do you, the members of this congregation as those who are already under the obligations of this covenant welcome into your fellowship these who have now professed their faith in Christ and their purpose to live as His disciples and do you promise to encourage and help them in their Christian life -
Answer - We do

Then with this the minister shall shake hands with the recipient and let them know that they are welcome to the congregation.

NOTES

? elect tonight or next week.

? allow new members vote.

Current By-laws